



THE CHRIST, TEACHER, PROPHET, FRIEND, LORD, SHEPHERD, BRIDEGROOM JEFF HOOVER - JUNE 14, 2015 - EVANGEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Spiritual Maturity...Knowing who you are,
what you're here for, and how life in the kingdom of God works!

"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."
(*Your thoughts about God are the most important thoughts you will have!*)
~ A.W. Tozer

Matt 16:15–20 NIV

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "**Who do people say the Son of Man is?**"

¹⁴ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

¹⁵ "**But what about you?**" he asked. "**Who do you say I am?**"

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷ Jesus replied, "**Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.** ¹⁸ **And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.** ¹⁹ **I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.**" ²⁰ Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

Jesus the Prophet

- **Review: Who is Christ to You?**

- **The Christ...** *Charles Spurgeon*, a mighty man of God and renowned preacher, said that **Christ is the central truth in world history. All things march toward or away from him**, and all lines of history meet in his person; history progresses according to the will of Christ. His miracles and his splendid words witness to the truth of his teachings giving certain proof of the validity of his claims to be the Son of God.
- **The Rabbi or Teacher...** Of the 90 times Jesus was addressed directly in the gospels, 60 times he was called Teacher. This was the word the multitudes used. This was how the disciples referred to him. Jesus himself used the term when he said, "*You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am.*" (John 13:13 NLT-SE).

- **Prophets In The Bible**

- Prophets in the Bible **function** in the following broad categories:
 - **FIRST**, they are **spokesmen for God**
 - In 1 Samuel 8:7, the people asked the prophet for a king and God told Samuel, "*Do everything they say to you,*" **the LORD replied, "for it is me they are rejecting, not you. They don't want me to be their king any longer."** It was Samuel's responsibility to tell the people of Israel God's response. **God was the source of Samuel's authority and words. Samuel the prophet was God's representative.**

- The Old Testament is full of the statement, “the word of the Lord came to. . .” indicating that **the source of the message was God, not the prophet.** (2 Sam 7:4; 2 Kings 20:4; Ezek 3:16). You can find more examples in the opening verses of Hosea, Joel, Micah, Jonah, and Zephaniah.
- **Jesus was a spokesman for God**, himself, and made no bones about it:
 - *My message is not my own; it comes from God who sent me. (John 7:16 NLT-SE)*
 - *When you have lifted up the Son of Man on the cross, then you will understand that I AM he. I do nothing on my own but say only what the Father taught me. (John 8:28 NLT-SE)*
- **SECOND**, they **foretell or predict future events** through divine revelation.
 - Sometimes the message would include **predicting the future**. Jesus predicted the future when He told His disciples *“that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life” (Matthew 16:21).*
 - This prophecy is recorded as **fulfilled in all four Gospel accounts** (Matthew 27-28; Mark 15-16; Luke 22-24; and John 18-20).
 - This **prophecy is fulfilled in Acts 2** when the apostles *received the Holy Spirit* and as a result, spoke in languages they did not know, proclaiming the gospel to at least fifteen different language groups present in Jerusalem for Pentecost. **Jesus clearly fulfilled the role of a prophet.**
- **THIRD**, prophets are sometimes the vehicle God works through to **perform miracles and healings**.
 - **Moses** performed many miracles, including parting the Red Sea. (Ex 14:21–22 NLT-SE)
 - **Elijah** performed a miracle when he called fire down from heaven to burn up a sacrifice. (1 Kings 18:36–38 NLT-SE)
 - **Elisha** performed a miracle when he made the ax head float in the water. (2 Kings 6:6 NLT-SE)
 - All four Gospel accounts record **Jesus** performing many miracles and healings. (Matt 8:14–15; Mark 1:40–45; Luke 8:42–48; John 6:16–21)

- The Prophecies of Jesus

Depending upon who is doing the counting, **Jesus gave approximately 100 recorded predictive prophecies** during His ministry. Many were about His future return to the earth and other end-time events.

Many others were about His arrest, trial, suffering, death and resurrection. He was likely preparing His disciples for what was to come. But more than that, **His prophecies and their exact fulfillments were further proof that He was the Son of God.**

Let's take a look at several of the important prophecies and their fulfillment.

- **Jesus prophesied specific things about His disciples.**
 - ²¹ *While they were eating, he said, “I tell you the truth, **one of you will betray me.**”* ²² *Greatly distressed, each one asked in turn, “Am I the one, Lord?”* ²³ *He replied, “**One of you who has just eaten from this bowl with me will betray me.**” (Matt 26:21–23 NLT-SE)*
 - ³¹ *On the way, Jesus told them, “**Tonight all of you will desert me. For the Scriptures say, ‘God will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.**”* ³² *But after I have been raised from the dead, I will go ahead of you to Galilee and meet you there.”* ³³ *Peter declared, “Even if everyone else deserts you, I will never desert you.”* ³⁴ *Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, Peter—**this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me.**” (Matt 26:31–34 NLT-SE)*
- **Jesus spoke “woes” over three specific cities with dramatic results.**
 - ²⁰ *Then Jesus began to denounce the towns where he had done so many of his miracles, because they hadn't repented of their sins and turned to God.* ²¹ *“What sorrow awaits you, **Korazin and Bethsaida!** For if the miracles I did in you had been done in wicked Tyre and Sidon, their people would have repented of their sins long ago, clothing themselves in burlap and throwing ashes on their heads to show their remorse.* ²² *I tell you, Tyre and Sidon will be better off on judgment day than you.* ²³ *“And you people of **Capernaum**, will you be honored in*

heaven? No, you will go down to the place of the dead. For if the miracles I did for you had been done in wicked Sodom, it would still be here today. ²⁴ I tell you, even Sodom will be better off on judgment day than you." (Matt 11:20–24 NLT-SE)

- **Jesus predicted He would die and be raised to life "in three days."**
 - "All right," Jesus replied. "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." (John 2:19 NLT-SE)
 - At times, Jesus said He would rise "in three days" or "within three days," which means no later than three days. At other times, He said "after three days," which means no sooner than three days. **Taken together, these statements show that it would occur in exactly three days.** Jesus was a prophet who actually fulfilled prophecy!
- **Jesus promised His second coming to earth.**
 - ¹ "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. ² There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? ³ When everything is ready, **I will come and get you**, so that you will always be with me where I am. (John 14:1–3 NLT-SE)



- What would it be like to walk with Jesus the Prophet?

- One thing's for sure, **we would ALL have a lot more questions than answers.**
 - Judas' **betrayal** of Jesus... (John 13:21–28)
 - Jesus **death** and **resurrection**... (John 13:7, 19; 24:44-45)
- It would look a lot like **being a Christian, living in Longview, and being part of Evangel.**
 - For the past 20+ years, the Lord has not just been raising up prophetic voices, but giving us **a desire to become a prophetic community**, a people who truly value of being hungry to hear God's voice and obey it.
 - The key to becoming a prophetic community is that we **grow in our value for the power that comes with diversity** when it comes to redemptive gifts, specific ministries and callings in the body of Christ.
 - The context for has to start with, not what we do "in Jesus name," but **who we are in Christ**, together!
- **The Plumb line of being "In Christ" is our reference point.**
 - **What does it mean to be "in Christ?"** (33 Truths about, "Who I Am In Christ" by Neil T. Anderson)
 - **I Am Accepted in Christ**
 - I am God's **child** (John 1:12–13)
 - I am Christ's **friend** (John 15:12–17)
 - I have been **justified** (Rom 5:1)
 - I am **united** with the Lord; one with him in Spirit (1 Cor 6:17)
 - I have been **bought** with a price; I belong to God (1 Cor 6:19–20)
 - I am a **member** of Christ's body (1 Cor 12:27)
 - I am a **saint** (Eph 1:1)
 - I have been **adopted** as God's child (Eph 1:5)
 - I have **direct access** to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph 2:17–18)
 - I have been **redeemed** and **forgiven** for all my sins (Col 1:13–14)
 - I am **complete** (Col 2:9–10)
 - **I am Secure in Christ**
 - I am free forever from **condemnation** (Rom 8:1–2)



- I am assured that **all things work together for good** (Rom 8:28–30)
- I am free from any **condemning charges** against me (Rom 8:31–34)
- I cannot be **separated from the love** of God (Rom 8:35)
- I have been established **anointed** and **healed** by God (2 Cor 1:21–22)
- I am **hidden** with Christ in God (Col 3:3)
- I am **confident** that the good work God has done in me **will be completed** (Phil 1:6)
- I am a **citizen** of Heaven (Phil 3:20)
- I have not been given a spirit of fear, but of **power, love** and a **sound mind** (2 Tim 1:7)
- I can find **grace** and **mercy** in time of need (Heb 4:16)
- I am born of God and the **evil one cannot touch me** (1 John 5:18)
- ***I am Significant in Christ***
 - I am the **salt** and **light** of the earth (Matt 5:13–16)
 - I am the **branch** of the true Vine, a channel of his life (John 15:1–5)
 - I have been **chosen** and **appointed** to bear fruit (John 15:16–17)
 - I am a personal **witness** of Christ's (Acts 1:8)
 - I am God's **temple** (1 Cor 3:16–17)
 - I am a **minister of reconciliation** (2 Cor 5:17–20)
 - I am God's **co-worker** (2 Cor 6:1)
 - I am **seated** with Christ in the Heavenly realm (Eph 2:6–7)
 - I am God's **workmanship** (Eph 2:10)
 - I may approach God with **freedom** and **confidence** (Eph 3:12)
 - I can do all things through Christ who **strengthens** me (Phil 4:11–14)
- **Bringing together Jesus the Christ, the teacher, and the prophet...** The gospel of John jumps right into the deep end of the life of Jesus and paints a picture of the life i"n Christ" that we are pursuing.
 - In Chapter One, **John the baptizer** is down by the river, baptizing, when the pharisees start questioning him about his true identity...
 - ²¹ "Are you Elijah?" "No," he replied. "Are you the Prophet we are expecting?" "No." ²² "Then who are you? We need an answer for those who sent us. What do you have to say about yourself?" ²³ John replied in the words of the prophet Isaiah: "I am a voice shouting in the wilderness, 'Clear the way for the LORD's coming!'" ²⁴ Then the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵ asked him, "If you aren't the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet, what right do you have to baptize?" ²⁶ John told them, "I baptize with water, but right here in the crowd is someone you do not recognize. ²⁷ Though his ministry follows mine, I'm not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandal." (John 1:21–27 NLT-SE)
 - **This is the way John understood and talked about the coming Messiah.** This is what he taught his disciples and it gives context to what happens next...
 - ³⁵ The following day John was again standing with two of his disciples. ³⁶ As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and declared, "Look! There is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ When John's two disciples heard this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Jesus looked around and saw them following. "What do you want?" he asked them. They replied, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" ³⁹ "Come and see," he said. (John 1:35–39 NLT-SE)
 - Andrew, who is one of John's disciples, **leaves John to follow Jesus!**
 - ⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of these men who heard what John said and then followed Jesus. ⁴¹ Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means "Christ"). ⁴² Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, "Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Cephas" (which means "Peter"). (John 1:40–42 NLT-SE)
 - This is what a "**prophetic culture**" looks like. It has much less to do with, "**Thus saith the Lord**" and much more to do with, "**Let's follow the Lord!**"